

Anxiety and Fear Disposal – 4

I. Fear of Death

One mark of Christ's followers is that they face death without fear because of their faith. The twelve disciples fell apart when Jesus was arrested. Without their leader, they scatter. Peter's fear of death is singled out as a particularly dramatic one-for fear of his life he denies even knowing Jesus

Something happens to a man when you see someone raised from the dead. One day Peter was hiding behind a locked door, the next he is preaching about Jesus in the Temple courts. Solomon wrote: *It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart" (Ecclesiastes 7:2)*

If you think back to the manna you will remember that manna was only for the day. In other words, it is true for God's people that whatever happens tomorrow, they will have plenty of manna. Today you do not have the grace (the manna) to endure what could come in the future.

A. You can't predict what form that manna will take because God is in the habit of giving better than what you think. What do you think that manna could look like when you or someone you love is wasting away?

B. Who do you know who has found grace despite physical disability? Ask such people how God's grace and mercy found them at such a crucial time.

II. Fear After Death

Most people who are intimately familiar with fear or anxiety are quite aware that a judgment day is coming. Fearful people tend to be scrupulous about their sins. They know they have done wrong before God, and they take that wrong seriously. Some passages dealing with judgment include: Matthew 12:36; Acts 24:25; Romans

14:10-12; and Hebrews 9:27).

For this reason, it is important to know the Gospel Paul says: *Judgment followed one sin (Adam's sin) and brought condemnation, but the gift of eternal life and no condemnation from Jesus followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*" (Romans 5:16-19)

A. How can you explain this in your own words? What is Paul saying?

Paul wants us to know that The King himself has taken your punishment. While many Christians believe that they will not be condemned, they also believe that they will not be commended.

B. What would you say to that?

At the risk of belaboring the point, one detail is often overlooked. It is this: when you see Him there will be manna-new grace available to you. What will that manna look like? "When you see Him, you will be like Him" (1 John 3:2).

No matter what your Christian life has been like to this point, when you see the Lord face-to-face, you will love Him completely.

C. When you know you have the manna that comes with sinlessness awaiting you, you can pray with thanksgiving. How would you word your prayer?

Conclusion:

1. Is there a worse fear than death?
2. When you face your worst fears, how does it change you to know you will receive manna when you need it?

3. Hope is the opposite of fear. Hope is a prediction that God will be good.